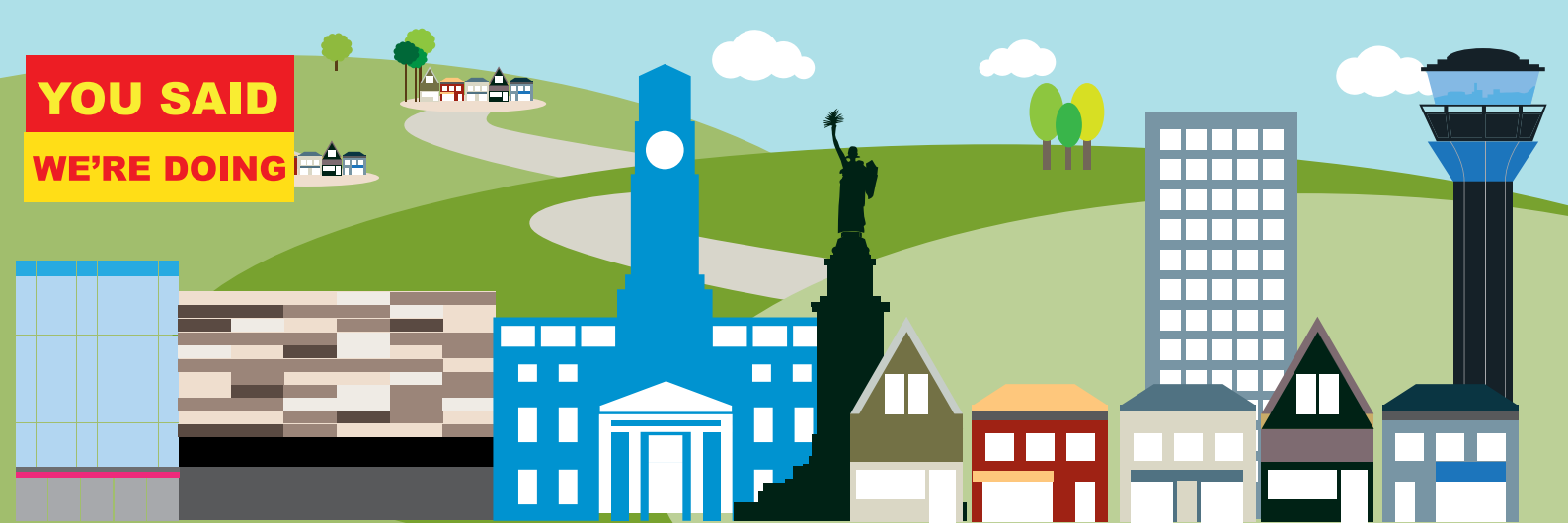


**YOU SAID
WE'RE DOING**



West Area Board

Neighbourhood Governance

Progress Report: October 2013 – February 2014

Date: 25 February 2014

Name of Chair: Councillor Aslam Khan

Reporting Officer: Adam Divney (on behalf of West Officers Group)

This report gives an overview of progress on community priorities for the west of Luton agreed with local people, councillors, and council partners as part of the 'Your Say, Your Way' programme.



LutonForum

NHS
Luton
Clinical Commissioning Group



**YOUR SAY
YOUR WAY**

LUTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Priorities and Service Updates



Residents to decide how local funding is spent

Over the next few weeks residents will have the opportunity to decide exactly how public money is spent in their local areas.

A series of 'decision day' events are scheduled across the town in which local people will vote on the projects they think will bring the most benefit to their neighbourhood.

The events have been organised as part of Luton Borough Council's 'Your Say, Your Way' programme which is all about ensuring residents can help shape the future of their neighbourhoods by getting involved in local decision making.

Funding for the projects has been made available by the Council's Community Development and Public Health services, Beds and Luton Community Foundation and Luton Adult Learning.

Some examples of the project proposals include youth development opportunities through music, performing arts and sports, neighbourhood safety initiatives and subsidised sports and fitness sessions to improve community health and wellbeing.

Those who attend the events will also get the chance to decide how offenders sentenced to Community Payback should pay back for their crimes or unpaid work for the benefit of the community.

As a special one-off promotion, the Council is offering a payment of £12 for each person referred to the Decision Days by a local school. This money will be given directly to PTAs to be used for any projects for their local school. For more information call 01582 54 87 73.

Your decision day events/times are as follows:

Challney Ward Decision Day

Saturday 8 March, 10am to 1pm

Chaul End Community Centre,
515 Dunstable Road, LU4 8QN

Leagrave Ward Decision Day

Saturday 8 March, 2pm to 5pm

Hockwell Ring Community Centre,
Mayne Avenue, LU4 9LB

Lewsey Ward Decision Day

Saturday 22 March 2014, 10.30am to 1.30pm

Lewsey Community Centre, Landrace Road, LU4 0SW

To book a place call **01582 54 87 73** or email
YourSayYourWay@luton.gov.uk



GraniPad: a project funded last year where young people help older people use tablet computers



Residents listen to one of the many community project applications

Prevention and Early Intervention Team update

Between October and December 2013 there were nearly 200 separate visits to Barnfield West Youth Zone for youth related activities by a number of local young people, children and families.

The activities were provided by local community organisations ASR (Actively Strengthening Resources) and FOBE (Friends of Bright Eyes).

ASR work with young people not in employment, education or training and FOBE is a club for young people with disabilities.

A similar success story was in Challney Youth Zone, which has had over 265 visits by young people, children and families that are linked to targeted youth work services, Challney Girls School and other Council agencies.

The Targeted Youth Work Team is working intensively in the evening

and weekends with 10 local young people and their families who are some of the most vulnerable residents in the West of Luton. Five staff from the Street Based Youth Work team, under the SLP (Safer Luton Partnership) banner, are spending up to 19 hours a week in the Hockwell Ring and Lewsey Farm areas to divert young people from antisocial behaviour both after school and in the evenings.

Community Priorities and Service Updates



Local people make a difference to Luton town

More than 100 volunteers were out in force recently helping to brighten up their local areas as part of the national 'Make a Difference' campaign.

Luton residents were joined by council employees and volunteers from a number of organisations in five different locations across the town, where they gave up their time to pick up litter and plant bulbs.

The day was organised and coordinated by Luton Borough Council and the University of Bedfordshire's Students Union, with a number of companies including Tesco, Thomson and Dominos sending staff or supplies to help the event run smoothly.

The volunteering took place all over the town including in Lewsey Green and all of the bulbs are expected to bloom by next spring, brightening up the areas with bluebells and daffodils.

Pam Garraway, Corporate Director for Housing and Community Living, said: "This Make a Difference day has been a great example of committed volunteers working together to improve Luton for the better. I'd like to thank all of those who attended and worked their socks off, as well as our partners for their support.

"We are planning on holding more Make a Difference days across the town, so if you would like to get involved then please get in touch."

For further details on volunteering opportunities and corporate challenge days, or to request an information pack, please call 01582 54 87 73 or email volunteering@luton.gov.uk



One of the many groups of fantastic volunteers that supported the day



Awards winners celebrate with local VIPs

Lewsey Centre Annual Awards Evening

Year on year the Lewsey Centre awards prove to be a major success. Nominations from the centre's clubs are sought from coaches, managers and instructors for a range of categories such as 'best student' and 'most improved'. Trophies are presented to the winners. It is always an excellent opportunity for all of the groups to come together, socialise and recognise everyone's achievements.

The awards evening was attended by more than 200 people including, Luton North MP Kelvin Hopkins, Council Leader Cllr Hazel Simmons, Luton's Mayor Cllr Sheila Roden and local councillors Joan Bailey and Aslam Khan.

More than 40 awards were presented throughout the evening to adults and children from the Rainbows, Ballet, Drama, Gymnastics, Ju Jitsu, Tae Kwon-Do, N.A.S.K. Karate, Lewsey Rifle & Pistol and Boxing clubs.

There was also a special volunteer award presented to Bridget Whittaker for her outstanding contribution to the Lewsey Drama Club.

Health and Wellbeing



Door Step Clubs in Lewsey

Active Luton has secured lottery funding to set up 'Doorstep' sports clubs at Lea Manor Recreation Centre and Lewsey Sports Park. The clubs will give young people the opportunity to take part in a range of activities at affordable prices.

The programme, which started in November, aims to build on the London 2012 Olympics legacy by bringing sport to young people aged 14-25 years at the 'right time, right place and in the right style'.

Nationally, over 300 Doorstep sports clubs will be set up by summer 2014 and the programme is being supported by Sport England with £3.38 million of National Lottery Funding.

For more information on Door Step Clubs visit www.activeluton.co.uk or call 01582 40 02 72



Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Update

There have been a number of local surveys carried out recently in Luton, including Luton Borough Council's neighbourhood governance survey. The CCG took the opportunity to collect feedback about what residents think the health issues in are in Luton and what they would like to see improved. One area that they wanted to see improvements in was making it easier to get an appointment to see a GP.

The CCG has listened and is working with GP practices to be more accessible. Pastures Way Surgery in Lewsey Farm is setting up a new patient group for its practice. Dr Shah, said: "By working with patients and listening to what they have to say, we think we will be able to make improvements that will benefit all of our patients. This is a really exciting opportunity to get involved and make a difference."

Other practices are not standing still either; they are looking at ways in which telephone systems can be improved, making a wider range of appointment times available and introducing telephone triage approaches where residents can avoid an unnecessary trip to the surgery by talking with a doctor by phone. There are lots of different solutions that are being acted upon, including a move by some practices towards online booking of appointments.

We will keep you updated as we progress and welcome your feedback on where you see improvements and where there is room to improve. contactus@lutonccg.nhs.uk



Patient Group in action!

Health and Wellbeing



New parks resolution



**Meet people
Have fun
Learn something new
Get fit**

If you are looking for a fresh, healthy and active start to 2014, then join in our programme of healthy outdoor events running from January to March 2014.

For details of the full programme including dates, times and venues contact **Jayne Maddox**, Luton parks service, on **01582 546735**

www.luton.gov.uk/parks



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Improve your fitness and your local park

A new programme of voluntary projects in Luton has been launched.

Working with partners including the Greensand Trust and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, the Council has put together a programme of physical tasks and events running from January until March aimed at improving not only the local environment in the borough's parks and green spaces but also the health of participants.

"If you are looking to improve your physical fitness and sense of wellbeing this could be an ideal opportunity," said Mike McMahon, Head of Community Living.

"Anyone in the local community can get involved and it could be the spur you are looking for to change a daily routine, get some fresh air or relieve a little stress."

The programme is being funded courtesy of a public health grant and ten dates have been arranged for residents to get involved in.

All events are free, open to all and led by rangers from the Greensand Trust or the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.

To get involved call Jayne Maddox on **01582 546735** or email Jayne.Maddox@luton.gov.uk

Lewsey Children's Centre – Fun with Food

Lewsey Children's Centre recently held a six week course named 'Fun with Food' for young mothers and their children. The course, which was fully subscribed, aimed to help parents understand the benefits of healthier food and how to encourage children into taking the healthier option with fruits and vegetables by making the food look more enticing and interesting to eat. There are hopes of further regular six week courses in the future as more parents take interest.

Please contact Lewsey Community centre on **01582 696355** for more details.



Environment and Economy



Dame Kelly Holmes 'Get on Track' continues to inspire

Dame Kelly Holmes Trust is once again teaming up with the Council's Community Development Service this winter to deliver the 'Get on Track' programme in Luton. 'Get on Track' is a personal development programme for 16-25 year olds and uses athlete mentors to inspire and motivate participants at the same time as providing them with a raft of employability skills.

Whilst the current programme is taking place at Luton Sixth Form College, there will be another programme taking place later in the year at a community venue and anyone interested in taking part can contact the Community Development Service on **01582 54 87 75**.



Get on track at Luton Sixth Form College



A bustling and successful LETS fair

'LETS' Fair

Last Autumn's Luton's Employment, Training & Skills (LETS) Fair aimed to connect the people of Luton with employment and networking opportunities, resources and information as well as free careers advice and support. The event was a huge success and has already supported over 299 people back into work and training.

Another more recent LETS event took place on Thursday 13 February 2014 and also generated an excellent response, with local residents being able to access over 50 local employment providers.

Local businesses help keep West Luton 'cleaner and greener'

Staff from Thomson continued to support the Luton Borough Council's Volunteer Scheme by planting bulbs at Lewsey Park in late 2013. The group of employees managed to plant over 5000 bulbs in a busy day of volunteering and have also pledged to come back in the summer to help further develop the area for local people.

Looking ahead, Leagrave businesses NatWest and Coral are looking to work with the local community to undertake a community tidy up day at Nursery Parade (Marsh Road). The tidy up day will take place on 16 March and any residents wishing to take part are asked to email volunteering@luton.gov.uk for further details.

If you're a business and are interested in helping to improve one of Luton's green spaces, please email volunteering@luton.gov.uk



Thomsons staff proudly survey their hard work.



Luton Adult Learning

A group of parents at Meadows Children's Centre and Pastures Way Nursery recently discovered a shared passion for sewing while attending family art and story sacks sessions taught by Luton Adult Learning. The group formed such strong bonds and enjoyed what they were doing so much that even after the courses had finished, they continued to meet informally at the centre once a week to develop their sewing skills. A member of staff from Meadows continued to nurture their love of sewing and the group started to make small items to sell at nursery and children's centre events.

Encouraged by their success, the group recently decided that they would like to gain a qualification in sewing in order to gain formal recognition of how much they have learnt, and to develop their skills further. On 14 January they started a City & Guilds Level 1 sewing qualification, facilitated by Luton Adult Learning. From a starting point of little or no sewing skills, this group have shared knowledge, developed skills and supported one another to reach a point where they have been able to embark on this formal qualification – which will not only give them new creative skills, but also show that they have a keen interest in their own personal and possible career development.

If you'd like to find out more about the range of learning opportunities through Luton Adult Learning visit www.lutonacl.ac.uk or call **01582 490033**



Local improvements in Lewsey

Traveller encampments on Tomlinson Avenue

Following resident complaints about illegal traveller encampments on the green space at the bottom of Tomlinson Avenue junction with Wheatfield Road, the Council's Parks Department and Lewsey Ward Councillors have arranged for a number of preventative measures to stop illegal access to the site in the future. Steps are now being taken to bollard the whole perimeter of the green space to prevent further encampments.

Service Road to the rear of houses 140 – 160 Wheatfield Road

The homes situated in Wheatfield Road have a service road to the rear of the properties which is used for refuse collection. The area has been a target for fly-tipping and other forms of antisocial behaviour for a number of years. This has been very distressful to local residents, and in addition, the clearance of the flytipping has been an extra and unexpected cost to the Council's budget.

Through the West Luton Area Board, the area is now going to be fitted with two high security vehicle barriers and catch post with a high security multi-lock system. These will be situated at each end of the road.

YOUR SAY YOUR WAY

...in West Luton

Your Local Councillors

Challney

Cllr Khtija Malik Khtija.Malik@luton.gov.uk

Cllr Tahir Malik Tahir.Malik@luton.gov.uk

Cllr Tom Shaw Tom.Shaw@luton.gov.uk

Councillor Surgeries

Every Saturday 10am - 12pm - Chaul End Centre, 515 Dunstable Road

Leagrave

Cllr Waheed Akbar Waheed.Akbar@luton.gov.uk

Cllr Desline Stewart Desline.Stewart@luton.gov.uk

Cllr Sheila Roden Sheila.Roden@luton.gov.uk

Councillor Surgeries

1st and 3rd Saturday (Monthly excluding August)

10am - 12pm - Hockwell Ring Community Centre, Mayne Avenue

Lewsey

Cllr Joan Bailey Joan.Bailey@luton.gov.uk

Cllr Aslam Khan Aslam.Khan@luton.gov.uk

Cllr Hazel Simmons Hazel.Simmons@luton.gov.uk

Councillor Surgeries

Every Saturday 10am - 12 Lewsey Farm Community Centre, Landrace Road



Upcoming community events in west Luton

Challney Ward Decision Day

Saturday 8 March,

10am to 1pm

Chaul End Community Centre,
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Lewsey Ward Decision Day

Saturday 22 March 2014,

10.30am to 1.30pm

Lewsey Community Centre,
Landrace Road, LU4 0SW

Luton North and West Local Policing Team

Futures House, The Moakes, Luton LU3 3QB

Call: 101 for non emergencies

Email: LPT.CommunityLuton-North&West@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Web: www.bedfordshire.police.uk

Looking for more information?

For further information on this report or the "Your Say, Your Way" programme please call us on **01582 55 87 75** or email:

West Area Manager:

Shohir.uddin@luton.gov.uk

Community Involvement Manager:

Sultan.Khan@luton.gov.uk